

19. (New) An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the supporting mechanism comprises an arc-shaped contact plate made of a material with low frictional resistance within the arc-shaped groove.

20. (New) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:
a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member,

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor, and

wherein the impact releasing mechanism is configured to release support of the motor only when a vehicle crash applies the impact energy.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-16 are pending in the above-captioned patent application. By the above amendment, claims 1, 2 and 7 have been cancelled and claims 17-20, first submitted in a previous Reply After Final Rejection, have been added.

In the advisory action dated May 17, 2004, the examiner indicated that claims 11-20 would be allowable if submitted in a

separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. Non-allowable claims 1, 2 and 7 have been cancelled by the above amendment, and therefore, it is submitted that claims 11-20 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 5, 8-10 and 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but were indicated to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. By the above amendment, claims 3, 8, 9, and 10 have been amended to include the limitations of their base claims. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 12, indicated to be allowable in the Advisory Action, has also been amended to include the limitations of its base claim. In view of these amendments, it is submitted that claims 3 and 6-20 are now in condition for allowance.

The above amendment cancels claims and makes changes as required or suggested by the examiner to place the subject application in condition for allowance. The entry of this amendment and the allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the

telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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